

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02808 291901Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 OC-06
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-----002642 292146Z /50
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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2126

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2808

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FI
SUBJECT: 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FINNISH INDEPENDENCE: VISIT
OF MRS. MONDALE TO HELSINKI.

REF: STATE 283936

1. THE ENBASSY IS VERY PLEASED AND HONORED TO WELCOME
MRS. MONDALE AND MRS. ABELL TO THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THEIR VISIT. THE
AMBASSADOR INVITES THEM TO STAY AT THE RESIDENCE
AND HAS SO INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. SECRET SERVICE AGENT BRADSHAW FROM THE PARIS OFFICE
ARRIVED NOVEMBER 29 TO BEGIN THE ADVANCE WORK. AGENT
BRADSHAW CONCURS IN THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE USE OF
THE RESIDENCE FOR MRS. MONDALE AND MRS. ABELL. THE
EMBASSY WILL MEET AGENT HAAS AND MRS. HIGGINS-BERGWALL
AT THEIR 11:25 A.M. (LOCAL) HELSINKI ARRIVAL. ADVANCE
PARTY WILL BE STAYING AT HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL -
TELEPHONE 441-331. ROOMS RESERVED THERE FOR ADVANCE
PARTY AND OTHERS IN MRS. MONDALE'S PARTY THROUGH
DECEMBER 7. INTERCONTINENTAL IS 10-12 MINUTES FROM
RESIDENCE. VISAS AND VACCINATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

3. THE FORMAL PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN DELEGATIONS
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02808 291901Z

PARTICIPATING IN THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES IS
AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY - DECEMBER 5:

1100 - DELEGATIONS BEGIN TO GATHER AT THE GOVERNMENT
BANQUET HALL TO PRESENT THEIR GREETING TO THE PRESIDENT

OF FINLAND URHO KEKKONEN, THE PRIME MINISTER, KALEVI SORSA, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, PAVVO VAYRYNEN. INVITED DELEGATIONS (DENMARK, ICELAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN AND USSR) WILL EACH HAVE 10 MINUTE SESSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT. OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL THEN HAVE FIVE MINUTE MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT BY FRENCH ALPHABETICAL ORDER. WE ESTIMATE THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH KEKKONEN AT ABOUT 1205.
1300 - LUNCH OFFERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF FINLAND.

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 6:

1200 - RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT THE HELSINKI CATHEDRAL WHICH DELEGATIONS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AS DESIRED (OPTIONAL).
1500 - CONCERT AT FINLANDIA HALL.
1900 - RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF FINLAND AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.
2020 - DINNER OFFERED BY THE PRESIDENT.
(WHITE TIE - LONG DRESSES).

4. THE MFA PROTOCOL OFFICE IS PREPARING A LIST OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WHO WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONIES.

EMBASSY WILL FORWARD IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT.
HELSINKI 2762 OF NOVEMBER 25 LISTS THE DELEGATIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 02808 291901Z

OF THE INVITED COUNTRIES AS ANNOUNCED THUS FAR.

5. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICIALS STRESS THAT MRS. MONDALE WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS AT ANY CEREMONIES. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT UNLIKELY THAT MRS. MONDALE WILL HAVE TO FIELD ANY POLITICAL/ ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AT LENGTH. MOST LIKELY, THE INTEREST WILL BE MORE PERSONAL IN CHARACTER DEALING WITH HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HER ROLE AS THE VICE PRESIDENT'S WIFE. DURING THE MONDAY FIVE-MINUTE CALL ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN BY MRS. MONDALE, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY AND MRS. ABELL, MRS. MONDALE MIGHT WISH TO:
--CONVEY THE PRESIDENT'S OWN BEST WISHES AND THOSE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND TO THE FINNISH PEOPLE.
--REFER TO THE STRONG HUMAN AND FAMILY TIES LINKING FINLAND AND THE US.
--EMPHASIZE OUR SHARED POLITICAL VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS.
--LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BUILT UPON THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO PROUDLY INDEPENDENT NATIONS AND PEOPLES.

--RECALL THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MINNESOTA IN THE SUMMER OF 1976 WHERE HE RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE.
--EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR FINLAND'S ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE CSCE, IN PARTICULAR AS HOST FOR THE MEETING IN HELSINKI IN THE SUMMER OF 1975 OF THE LEADERS OF 33 EUROPEAN NATIONS, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE FINAL ACT WAS ADOPTED.

6. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FINLAND ARE EXCELLENT. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL POLITICAL ISSUES TO SPEAK OF. THE RELATIVELY MINOR ECONOMIC ISSUES ARE SET FORTH IN BRIEFING PAPERS PREPARED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 1-3 VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF ARVO RYTKONEN, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HELSIN 02808 291901Z

MFA'S UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. (SEE HELSINKI 2474 OF OCTOBER 26). THE MOST PROMINENT BILATERAL CONCERN IS THE RECENT FAILURE OF THE BID OF THE FINNISH SHIPYARD WARTSILA ON CONSTRUCTION OF COAST GUARD CUTTERS, AS WELL AS WARTSILA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN COMPETING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER SHOULD CONGRESS APPROPRIATE FUNDS. THE TWO MATTERS CURRENTLY RECEIVING THE MOST PROMINENT PLAY IN FINLAND ARE THE BLEAK ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. ECONOMICALLY FINLAND IS COMPLETING ITS THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR OF NO GROWTH AND A FOURTH YEAR IS IN PROSPECT. UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT AN HISTORIC HIGH BY FINNISH STANDARDS. THE BROAD-BASED FINNISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDES COMMUNISTS, IS UNABLE TO AGREE ON AN EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC PROGRAM. IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, TO TAKE PLACE IN MID-JANUARY, PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS NO SERIOUS OPPOSITION IN HIS CANDIDACY FOR A NEW SIX-YEAR TERM. HOWEVER, THE ELECTION PROCESS ITSELF IS BEING TAKEN QUITE SERIOUSLY AND THE CAMPAIGN, IN WHICH KEKKONEN IS PERSONALLY TAKING PART, HAS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FINNISH REAFFIRMATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. IN ANY CASE, THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR MRS. MONDALE AND AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY TO DISCUSS US/FINNISH RELATION WELL BEFORE THE FORMAL PROGRAM BEGINS.

7. PENDING RECEIPT OF PRESS GUIDANCE REFERRED TO IN REF TEL, EMBASSY HAS NOT ARRANGED ANY PRESS PROGRAM YET. HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR MRS. MONDALE TO MEET WITH THE PRESS AT SOME POINT.

8. AFTER MRS. HIGGINS-BERGWALL'S ARRIVAL ON NOVEMBER 30 WE WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF MRS. MONDALE'S
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PAGE 05 HELSIN 02808 291901Z

PERSONAL PREFERENCES FOR USE OF THE FREE TIME. WE
WOULD TENTATIVELY PLAN AN INFORMAL EVENING AT THE
RESIDENCE ON SUNDAY TO ALLOW THE PARTY TO ADJUST TO
THE SEVEN HOUR TIME DIFFERENCE. ALTHOUGH STORES
WILL BE OPEN ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, WE NOTE THAT
VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING IN FINLAND WILL BE CLOSED ON
THE NATIONAL DAY.

RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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